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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,417	03/26/2004	Takahiro Iwasaki	04175.0059	7846

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EXAMINER

VARGAS, DIXOMARA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2859

DATE MAILED: 05/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/809,417

Applicant(s)

IWASAKI, TAKAHIRO

Examiner

Dixomara Vargas

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Omata et al. (US 6,442,356 B2) and Sasamoto et al. (US 6,324,374 B1) in view of Faré (US 5,768,653 A).

With respect to claims 1, 6, 13 and 14, Omata discloses an image forming apparatus comprising (Figure 5): a plurality of image carriers (#101a-#101d); a plurality of transfer units (#105a-#105d), each of which is provided corresponding to each of said plurality of image carriers and, each of said plurality of transfer units being contacted under pressure with each of said plurality of image carriers (as see on Figure 5) through an intermediate transfer body or recording material by the application of pressure when each of said plurality of transfer units is operating (#190); a plurality of driving units for driving said plurality of image carriers to rotate (#170a-170d); and control unit for controlling said driving unit (#180), wherein said control unit makes said plurality of transfer units to be selectively operated according to the kind of image and said control unit changes a control method for said driving unit according to the kind of image (Columns 8-9, lines 49-67 and 1-17 respectively).

Also, Omata discloses the claimed invention as stated above except for having a plurality of transfer units not contacting each of said plurality of image carriers when each of said

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plurality of transfer units is not operating. However, Sasamoto discloses a plurality of transfer units not contacting each of said plurality of image carriers when each of said plurality of transfer units is not operating (Figures 2, 4, 7-8, 18 & 24-26). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a plurality of transfer units not contacting each of said plurality of image carriers when each of said plurality of transfer units is not operating as taught by Sasamoto with Omata's image forming apparatus for the purpose of applying pressure only with the rollers to be used, for example if a color image needs to be done, then all the color rollers will be pressing against the PC drum but for a black and white image, only the black roller will be pressing the PC roller to do the image as taught by Sasamoto (Column 12, lines 7-67).

In addition, Omata and Sasamoto disclose the claimed invention as stated above except for the control unit being capable of performing speed control. However, Faré discloses a speed control means (Figure 1, #12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use perform speed control as taught by Faré with Omata and Sasamoto's image forming apparatus for the purpose of achieving high printing resolution or higher productivity depending on the speed as taught by Faré (Column 9, lines 9-67).

3. With respect to claims 2 and 7, Omata discloses an intermediate transfer body (#190), wherein said plurality of transfer units is fixed (#105a-#105d) to said plurality of image carriers (#101a-#101d) through said intermediate transfer body by the application of pressure (as seen on Figure 5).

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4. With respect to claims 3, 8, 15 and 16, Omata discloses control unit that controls said driving unit to drive said image carriers according to correction information based on a mechanical resonance frequency of the driving systems of said image carriers corresponding to the kind of image (Columns 8-9, lines 49-67 and 1-17 respectively).
5. With respect to claims 4, 9, 17 and 18, Omata discloses the correction information is correction information for feed-forward control, and said control means controls said driving means to perform feed-forward control of said image carriers based on the correction information (Columns 8-9, lines 49-67 and 1-17 respectively).
6. With respect to claims 5 and 10, Omata discloses storage means for storing plural pieces of correction information in association with kinds of images, wherein said control means reads the correction information from said storage means according to the kind of image, and controls said driving means to drive said image carriers based on the correction information (Columns 8-9, lines 49-67 and 1-17 respectively).
7. With respect to claim 11, see rejection of claims 1 and 6 above.
8. With respect to claim 12, see rejection of claims 3 and 4 above.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

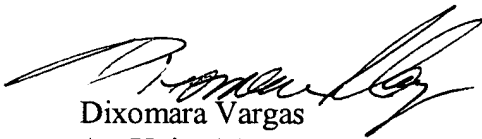
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dixomara Vargas whose telephone number is (571) 272-2252. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:00 am. to 4:30 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dixomara Vargas
Art Unit 2859
May 17, 2006



Diego Gutierrez
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800